REMARKS

Claims 1-29 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1, 11, 17, 22, 23, 24, and 26 are currently amended. Claim 13 is cancelled. Claims 30 and 31 are added. Accordingly, claims 1-12 and 14-31 will be pending after the entry of this amendment.

Support for the amendments is found throughout the application as originally filed. For example, support for the amendments to claims 1, 11, 17, 23, 24, and 26 and new amendments 30 and 31 is found, at least, in paragraphs [0038] and [0041] of the specification. Support for the amendments to claims 11 and 22 is found, at least, in original claim 13. No new matter has been added.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,567,783 to Notani et al. (hereinafter "Notani") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,928,396 to Thackston (hereinafter "Thackston"). Applicant respectfully disagrees and requests reconsideration in light of the amendments and remarks herein.

Claims 1-10, 17-21, and 23

Applicant respectfully asserts that amended claims 1-10, 17-21, and 23 are not obvious in light of Notani and Thackston because neither Notani nor Thackston teach or suggest presenting other application state files from other clients to a user and allowing the user to delay the instantiation of the other application state files, as currently claimed.

As a preliminary matter, Applicant notes that unlike the currently pending claims, Notani discloses a communication model for "events". Notani, col. 15, lines 17-33. As acknowledged in the Office Action, Notani does not discuss manipulating a design representing electrical or mechanical assemblies as claimed by Applicant. Notani does not teach or suggest creating, communicating and loading application state files based on at least one manipulation of a design representing electrical or mechanical assembly by a local application.

Moreover, Notani does not teach or suggest allowing a user to delay the instantiation of an application state file as currently claimed.

Thackston fails to cure these defects. Thackston is directed to a "networked, virtual, collaborative environment for three phases of an engineering development: (1) the design and development phase […]; (2) the identification and evaluation of qualified fabricators or manufacturers for a design […], and (3) the solicitation and evaluation of requests for proposals or quotes from qualified bidders". Thackston, col. 8, lines 46-62. Thackston does not teach or suggest creating, communicating and loading application state files based on at least one manipulation of a design representing electrical or mechanical assembly by a local application.

Thackston also does not teach or suggest allowing a user to delay the instantiation of an application state file as currently claimed.

As discussed above, the combination of Notani and Thackston would not produce the claimed inventions. For example, neither Notani nor Thackston teach or suggest a method involving allowing a user to refuse or delay the instantiation of an application state file. The claimed invention adds a significant and non-obvious feature over the prior art. Specifically, the ability to selectively load application state files allows for a user to work on a first aspect of the electrical or mechanical assembly before loading changes made to a second aspect by another user. *See* originally-filed application at [0038]. Moreover, the selective loading of applications allows for management review and user training. *See* originally-filed application at [0041].

Accordingly, Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-10, 17-21, and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Claims 11, 12, and 22

Applicant respectfully asserts that claims 11, 12, and 22 are not obvious in light of Notani and Thackston because neither Notani nor Thackston teach or suggest collaboration on an electrical or mechanical assembly between heterogenous applications on a single client.

Neither Notani or Thackston discuss educational features of their respective inventions. While Thackston's software can store information regarding a user's certifications, neither Thackston nor Notani teach or a suggest systems or methods for providing interactive instructions for manipulating electrical or mechanical assemblies as claimed.

Applicant's claimed invention provides a significant and non-obvious advantage over prior art systems such as those discussed in Notani and Thackston. Computer-aided design (CAD) systems are complex systems that require significant training before a user becomes truly proficient. Applicant's claimed invention provides for the asynchronous training of users without the need for a live presentation, thereby reducing costs and allowing greater flexibility.

Accordingly, Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 11, 12, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Claims 14-16

Applicant respectfully asserts that claims 14-16 are not obvious in light of Notani and Thackston because neither Notani nor Thackston teach or suggest collaboration on an electrical or mechanical assembly between heterogenous applications on a single client.

The process described in Figure 14 of Notani is an event manager process for use in a hub and spoke topology wherein messages are sent to multiple systems (*i.e.* clients). *See* Notani, col. 14, lines 43-49. Notani does not discuss communication between two applications running concurrently on a single client.

Thackston fails to cure these defects. Thackston discusses communication between clients, not between applications running on a single client.

Accordingly, Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 14-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Applicant believes that no fees or extensions are required other than the excess claim fees paid concurrently herewith. However, if for any reason the authorized fee is inadequate, the Office is conditionally authorized and requested to charge Deposit Account No. **04-1105** under order number 2012(220768). Also, the Office should consider this a conditional petition for the proper extension period needed to have this response entered and considered, if any.

Dated: June 30, 2008   Respectfully submitted,

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